

Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1922

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE
SUBJECT: NORTHERN CROSSING POINT IN BERLIN

REF: USBERLIN 1847

1. SENAT REP KUNZE MET GDR REP MITDANK ON SEPTEMBER 8
FOR ANOTHER INCONCLUSIVE MEETING ON NORTHERN CROSSING
POINT. KUNZE REPEATED HIS DEMAND FOR CONSTRUCTION LIST AND
SENAT'S DESIRE TO PURCHASE "DUCKBILL." MIDANK COUNTERED
BY SHOWING KUNZE COPY OF TAGESSPIEGEL OF SEPT 8 WHICH
CLAIMED THAT "NEGOTIATIONS" WERE VIRTUALLY COMPLETE ON
PURCHASE OF LAND AND THAT SENAT PROBABLY WILLING TO PAY UP
TO DM 50 MILLION. MIDANK REMINDED KUNZE THAT HE HAD
NEVER BEEN EMPOWERED TO NEGOTIATE A LAND PURCHASE OR SWAP.
HE ASKED AGAIN IF USE OF S-BAHN RIGHT-OF-WAY COULD NOT BE
ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE AND HE INDICATED THAT "ONE COULD
REACH AGREEMENT ON THE RIGHT-OF-WAY SOLUTION." KUNZE
REPLIED THAT USE OF ABANDONED S-BAHN RIGHT-OF-WAY
PRESENTED ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES THAT DID NOT LIE IN
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"TECHNICAL AREA." HE ADDED THAT GDR SALE OF "DUCKBILL"
WOULD CONTRIBUTE FAVORABLY TO THE GENERAL POLITICAL

CLIMATE. MIDANK TOOK THIS UNDER ADVISEMENT.

2. MITDANK AND KUNZE MET AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 14, THIS TIME IN WEST BERLIN (MITDANK ENJOYS LUNCHING IN THE RATSCELLER). MITDANK TOLD KUNZE THAT SALE OR EXCHANGE OF "DUCKBILL" AREA WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF QUESTION. HE STILL WAS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE DETAILED LIST OF PROJECTS INCLUDED IN CROSSING POINT, BUT DID INDICATE THAT THEY CONSISTED OF PREPARATION OF ROADWAY IN GDR, CHECKPOINT BUILDINGS, SIGNAL LIGHTS AND CROSSING POINT EQUIPMENT. COST OF THIS, ACCORDING TO MITDANK, WOULD BE DM 27.65 MILLION, ALL OF WHICH GDR WOULD EXPECT SENAT TO PAY.

3. SENAT BELIEVES THAT MATTER MUST NOW BE PURSUED BY FRG PERM REP GAUS WITH GDR OFFICIALS, SUCH AS DEP FONMIN NIER, IN ORDER TO OVERCOME IMPASSE. IF IN END, GDR CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO SELL TRIANGLE OF LAND THAT BLOCKS ORANIENBURGER CHAUSSEE, SENAT WILL FIND ITSELF BETWEEN ROCK AND HARD PLACE. RESIDENTS OF FROHNAU ARE ADAMANT IN REJECTING TRAFFIC THROUGH THEIR VILLAGE, WHILE SENAT WOULD FIND IT POLITICALLY AWKWARD TO TURN DOWN GDR OFFER TO OPEN UP ADDITIONAL HOLE IN BERLIN WALL, REGARDLESS OF HOW INCONVENIENT. SENAT OFFICIALS, INCIDENTALLY, ARE FURIOUS OVER LEAK TO TAGESSPIEGEL WHICH CORRECTLY IDENTIFIED FLOOR PRICE OF DM 50 MILLION WHICH SENAT WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY FOR "DUCKBILL" APART FROM APPROXIMATELY DM 28 MILLION WEST BERLINERS MUST SHELL OUT FOR CROSSING POINT COMPLEX. MISOFFS HAVE TALKED TO SENATORS TOBBE AND RIEBSCHLAEGER ABOUT IT AS WELL AS CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ; ACCORDING TO THEIR ESTIMATES SENAT MAY HAVE TO PAY EAST GERMANS FROM DM 5 TO 15 MILLION OVER WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN DEMANDED HAD TAGESSPIEGEL NOT TIPPED NEGOTIATING POSITION. DAVIS

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